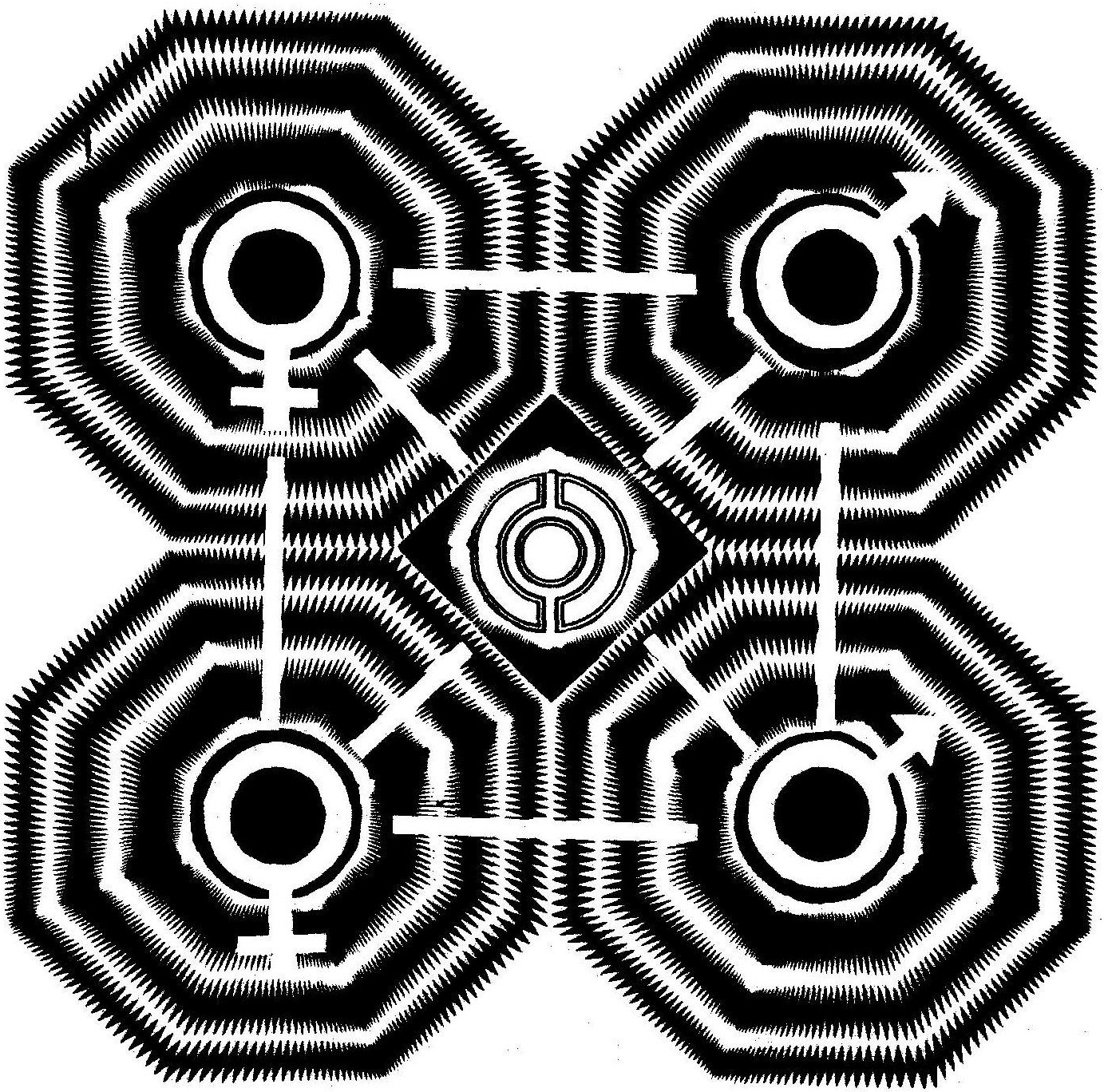
THE BI-MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Bisexual Center

Volume 3, Number 6 & 7 November/December 1979



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THE BISEXUAL CENTER

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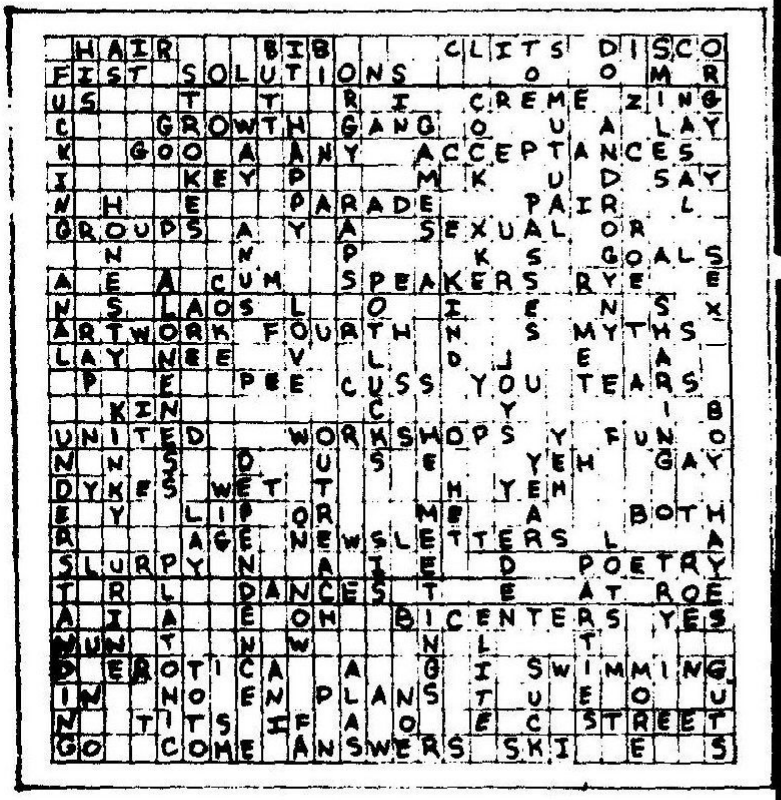
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GO COME ANSWERS SKI E S

Winning entry in the crossword-puzzle competition, submitted by Charles Moser of San Francisco, who gets a year's free membership. Congratulations!

this issue

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	Full-time Student,
$6 -	Unemployed, Retired
$12 -	Regular
$13-100	Contributing
$101-1000	Sustaining

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Dual Identity Crisis Time

- - Not Again !

by Andy/Andi Plumb

My problem with "coming out" is that I'm never sure what I'm going to come out as.

Each day I feel differently about my sexuality; in fact, each day I feel differently about what sex I am. Sometimes it matters whether I'm wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt, or wearing nylons, a garter belt, and a slip--and sometimes it doesn't. According to modern sexology, I'm a bisexual transvestite. At times I think I'm a lesbian woman with a penis, and one day I came out at a Bi Center Rap Group as "quadrisexual," meaning that I have enjoyed sex with a woman while dressed and fantasizing myself as a woman, and that I have had sex with women while feeling "male" (not necessarily "masculine"), and that I've felt sexual ecstasy with men also, as both my feminine and masculine beings. "Androgyny" is probably the best word to describe the "inner Andy" I've been striving for, the merger of the "masculine" and "feminine" within myself.

To me, all this just makes me basically "sexual," but that won't do, in this label-oriented, "you're-either-this-way-or-that-way" society. In some ways, I'm trying out identities these days (not just sexual ones: part of me wants to become a hippie-punk rocker). A year ago, I was fairly sure I was a heterosexual man with transvestism as a kind of hobby of mine. I was inwardly bisexual, feeling both masculine and feminine, but my relationship to other people sexually was to be extremely attracted to, and interested in, women, with an occasional fantasy about men who had androgynous looks. Since then, my sexuality has been in a constant state of flux. Without a consistent relationship, I've stepped out and experienced some "interesting" experiences, mainly with men, some of which have sent me further into a kind of sexual liberation, and others which have made me retreat back to the safety of "almost straight."

For the first time in my life, I began to actively "check out" men (I was tired of playing a passive role in my male activities) but I found this very scary. I had already used enough energy looking for women, evaluating them, thinking of them sexually. If men were to enter the sexual realm in my mind, all hell might break loose, I thought. I'd never be able to settle down. Yet I am more open than ever to a male "relationship" (someone, please define this word!), but I'm so unsure of it. It has been fairly easy to find "quickie" sex with men--it's the area beyond that, when my "ENTERING RELATIONSHIP: BEWARE!" signal pops up in my head, that is most threatening.

But then, again, I'm very wary of getting involved with women, also. I'm seldom in the mood to play "masculine," and I want to meet a woman who not only accepts my transvestism, but is even turned on by it (this has happened once before). But I don't want that to dominate our relationship, either. "Dressing up" is only part of my life, and even when that seems to be the only excitement I've got going for me, I don't wish to be limited by it. I want a strong one-to-one love, and I also want the "other world"--the "wild side"--for recreation. I'm a romantic cynic, "celibating" at present, who still believes in "Ms. Right" --or "Mr. Right"--who knows...?

Ménage à Trois

Is it a memory
or only a dream?
I remember opening my eyes
to soft-tinted orange light floating in the air.
And such warmth - I had to think
to remember why it was so warm.
Then my day began
and that warmth in my blood remained -
slow-beating, rhythmic, content. . . .
All was as always,
except
sometimes
the flashes - memories? - would come
of touching hands on breasts and limbs
and floating on clouds of rhythm and pulsing blood
warm bodies standing and embracing
touch to touch
and I
watch
and feel
inside and outside of me.
I wish I could have seen it all.
But I closed my eyes and lay back
on welcoming arms
in total trust of you both.
Soon it didn't matter who was who
or where the clouds were floating.
I just closed my eyes
and when I opened them
the room was orange.

--Marilyn King, 1974

Letters

Dear Bi Center:

So you've just celebrated your third anniversary, have you?

Well, <u>big deal</u>!

We've just celebrated our <u>thirtieth</u>!

Yes, that's right -- 30 years of ecstasy! Heh, heh, heh!!

Eat your hearts out.

Sincerely,

Otis Quagmire

Phoebe Hedonn ♡

Hezekiah Woodmwood

COWPAT, NEBRASKA

ONE MAN'S AUTO-BI-OGRAPHY

by "Michael"

Since many of us are trying to understand our sexual identities, I would like to share my own experience, as a 27-year-old man, of coming out bisexual. Right now, my sexual attraction is generally toward other men, but, for me, sexual preference does not box me into being exclusively gay. I am still experimenting to find out which personality traits in another person, male or female, attract me.

Learning to accept homosexual feelings has been an intense and trying experience, taking me into every corner of my being and into every kind of emotion I can imagine possible. Nobody who watched me grow up can be surprised to hear that I am gay. As a boy, I had all the classic "symptoms": I wanted to play with dolls, handbags and other girl-toys; unlike most boys, I enjoyed the company of girls even when I was very young; I was very emotional, cried a lot. As I grew up, I continued to feel passing interests in other feminine activities, such as ballet and sewing, but I learned to suppress these interests. Worse than fearing to try things I liked doing, however, was enduring loneliness, depression and shame as the youngest of four boys all brought up in a macho image. It was painful, being unable to live up to that image. For example, although I have a healthy, strong body and good coordination, I never became a star athlete, like my brothers, because I lacked the confidence to compete physically against other boys, whom I saw as stronger, more ferocious than I was. I reluctantly played Little League baseball and high school sports to please my parents, but suffered every moment, fearing ridicule if I made a mistake. Learning to accept my level of ability has given me strength; and I turn out to be not such a bad athlete after all. If I could give one thing to the world today, it would be for little boys, the knowledge that even their tenderest feelings are valuable, that they can respect and love themselves no matter what they would like to do.

Along with learning to suppress my so-called "feminine" interests, I somehow lost touch, as a youth, with my desire for females. During my earliest school years I had romances with several girls; I think I was actually quite a ladies' man, so to speak. But I always seemed to have emotional problems in these relationships, particularly possessiveness and jealousy; I thus usually ended up getting rejected. After tenth grade in high school, I guess I had been burned by girls one too many times and I hardly ever asked girls out again, much as I occasionally wanted to. I felt clumsy with girls, that I had nothing to offer them. I certainly couldn't offer them the brand of "masculinity" that other boys could. As I got older, I also began fearing that if I ever got into bed with a woman, I would be unable to become erect. Uncomfortable in the male role of initiator, aggressor, and risk-taker, I often resented women who seemed to expect me to assume that role. Even today I have to force myself to be friendly to such a woman, the kind who bats her eyelashes, reeks of perfume, or talks in a squeaky, helpless voice; but I am trying not to judge such women, realizing that they have been encouraged to behave that way just as I was encouraged to be macho.

Now, as I learn to ignore sex-role stereotyping and feel better about myself, I am also more confident about relating to women: all I have to do is be my sensitive, witty self. I still have doubts about my sexual performance with a woman, however, even though I "got laid" once in college

and was romantically involved with a woman for almost two years while I was in law school.

I can't remember when I first felt attracted sexually to other boys; it must have been around puberty. I was "seduced" repeatedly by two different older boys when I was eleven or twelve years old, and there was other physical contact with certain friends which was somewhat sexual. I knew that lots of other boys were doing all the homosexual things I was doing, and I figured it was a phase we all went through, except I never managed to unlearn the fact that sexual contact with other males is pleasurable. Fortunately, at least I have unlearned the accompanying guilt responses; I am proud to be capable of homosexuality. Through high school and college, my sexual attractions for other men continued and grew. I never found my emotional needs met in my friendships with heterosexual male friends. It would have been simpler to identify as homosexual back then, just to get some loving that I needed, had I felt sure that I was exclusively gay; but, since I wasn't sure I was gay, I refrained from any mature sexual experimentation. I wish I hadn't, for if I indeed had attractions for women I could have developed them anyway; but I feared getting drawn into the gay bar scene and totally losing myself there. Pity I missed out on all the fun for so many years!

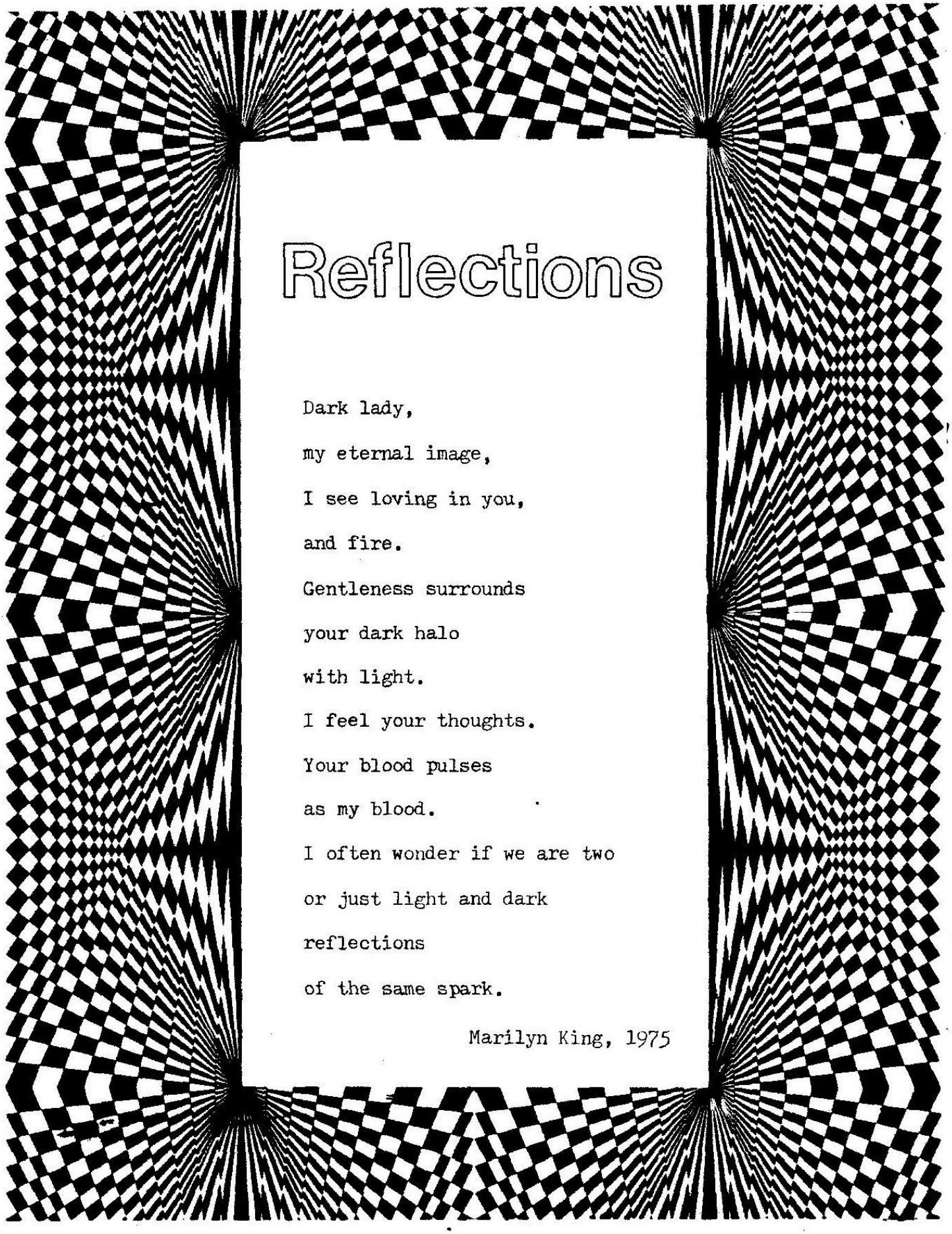
Growing up has meant having the confidence to be myself. I have accomplished a lot as a youth: excelled as a student and completed my law degree, travelled widely, made many friends, tried so many things. Maybe my childhood sexual and emotional inhibitions forced me to develop my intellect and to stay curious about the world; but now I feel I must tune in to my intuition. As I look back on the growing-up experiences I have described, I feel validation for what I believe now: that I can love men and women alike (and am currently doing so) and can expect to find pleasure, support, and anything else that humans give each other, from anybody who is willing to give it to me. If I have sexual feelings for women that are now blocked, I can unblock them; or if I simply like men better, then I can revel in that discovery. But in any case, I feel that the political struggle for gay rights is my struggle because it is the same struggle that all of us--my macho brothers, the dizzy, macho-loving women I resent--must make against sexism.

HAIRCUTTING PARTY

Two of our new members, Monica and Al, are professional hair stylists. They have generously donated some of their time, energy, and skill to the Bi Center, so--on December 7, we will be having a haircutting party!

For just a $6.00 donation to the Center, you can get your hair cut and your nails done, have some wine and cheese, and socialize, too, at the Bi Center, Friday night, December 7, between 7 and 10 PM.

This will be a great way to start looking your best for the holidays at little expense, and--Hey! Wouldn't a professional haircut be a wonderful holiday gift?



Reflections

Dark lady,
my eternal image,
I see loving in you,
and fire.
Gentleness surrounds
your dark halo
with light.
I feel your thoughts.
Your blood pulses
as my blood.
I often wonder if we are two
or just light and dark
reflections
of the same spark.

Marilyn King, 1975

Op Art background from Jean Larcher, Geometrical Designs (Dover, 1974--see page 1).

Groups and Workshops

I WANT TO BE CLOSE--
WAIT! NOT THAT CLOSE!

INTIMACY WORKSHOP FOR MEN AND WOMEN

A one-day workshop to explore ways of sharing intimately with others and to examine the risks and rewards involved in this process. We will examine the ways we set limits--and the ways we can push beyond those limits--in our intimate communications on both emotional and sexual levels. The workshop includes both verbal and nonverbal sharing in dyads and small groups.

Led by David Lourea and Marilyn King.
Cost: $20.00 for Bi Center members
$25.00 for non-members.
Time: Saturday, December 8, 1979,
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.
Place: The Bi Center, 1757 Hayes, S.F.

Preregistration is essential. To preregister, send a check to Marilyn King, 625 Ashbury #12, San Francisco, CA 94117. Deadline for preregistration is December 1. For more information, call Marilyn at 431-5513, or David at 567-3871.

NEW ONGOING GROUP FOR WOMEN AND MEN

An ongoing rap group for bisexual women and men is now forming. The group will be leaderless and can take whatever form the members decide will fill their needs. Structure and content will be discussed at the "organization" meeting, which will be the first meeting and will be held at the Bi Center. Subsequent meetings will be held at member's homes.

A special invitation is extended to bisexual women, since an approximate balance of women and men is desired.

For details, and to sign up for the group, call Dave, at 552-0466, in the evening, or Michelle, at 863-1758, during the day.

OPEN RELATIONSHIPS GROUP

The success of the first open relationships group has led to a great demand for a second ongoing group. Two of our new Board members, Debbie and Mike, are organizing the second group for individuals who are in an ongoing, committed relationship. If you are bi, or in a relationship with someone who is bi, and would like to have a support group of other people who are dealing with the issues of jealousy, time management, same- and other-sex concerns, possessiveness, what to tell children, friends or family, and similar issues, leave a message for Debbie and Mike at the Bi Center (922-2300) or call them at 261-2821.

EAST BAY MEN'S GROUP

Bisexual men's drop-in rap group, ongoing, every Tuesday; starts at 7:45 PM at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, Calif.

For more information, call:
Al, at 845-7912, or
Ran, at 843-5372

Wednesday Rap Group

Our drop-in rap group will be held on Wednesday nights, starting November 7. The emphasis of the group is on getting to know one another in a casual rap rather than getting into "heavies" which can be dealt with only in on-going groups. Although an exchange of ideas and information can be very helpful, the group does not provide therapy; however, the Bi Center can provide referrals to qualified therapists.

We will be asking for a $1.00 donation to help support the work of the Center.

If you are interested in meeting other people and knowing more about the Bi Center, why not drop in on a Wednesday night at 7:30 PM?

Community Bulletin Board

OFFICE HOURS

The Bi Center is open to the public on Tuesday nights, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, and Thursday nights, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Give us a phone call, or stop by, look the place over, and get acquainted!

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All contributions to the Bi-Monthly, including announcements, etc., must be in by the start of the Pasteup session. All articles longer than 50 words must be in by Layout day. All sessions are held at the Bi Center, and your help is badly needed!

LAYOUT: Sunday, December 9, 11 AM - 4 PM
PASTEUP: Sunday, December 16, 11 AM - 4 PM

POTLUCK

You are warmly invited to another of our friendly potluck parties at the Bi Center on Saturday, November 17, from 7:30 to 11:00 PM. Please bring food and/or drink to share.

GAMES NIGHT

Games Night is proving to be one of the most popular events we have at the Bi Center. There is a group of rugged enthusiasts who show up every time. If you'd like to join them, bring your favorite card, word, or board game on Thursday night, November 15 or 29, and/or December 6 or 13, at 7:30 PM, here at the Bi Center. Please bring drinks and/or snacks to share, plus a $1.00 donation to the Center.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Tuesday night drop-in rap group has been moved to Wednesday night. See page 9 for details.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

The Bi Community is blessed with a number of extremely talented artists and craftspeople. This year, when buying presents, support the community that supports you. Michelle Pitre, a jeweler, is organizing a display of arts and crafts work done by Bi Center members for sale on December 7th, the same night as the Haircutting Party. Drop by the Center, and buy a holiday gift for your friends, family, or loved ones, made by the members of your community. If you're a Bi Center member, and would like to display your work, call Michelle at 863-1758.

CHRISTMAS/CHANNUKAH PARTY

On Saturday night, December 15, the Bi Center will have a combined "Merry Christmas/Happy Channukah" Party. We'll light the Channukah candles at nine o'clock and decorate the Christmas tree afterwards. Please bring a small present (costing about $3.00 to $5.00, and suitable for a man or a woman) for the exchange of gifts that night. No donation to the Bi Center will be requested.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Last year, the Bi Center had a fabulous New Year's Eve party, and we're going to outdo ourselves this year. So, bring your friends and be prepared to party all night! Donation: $5.00 for members, $6.00 for non-members.

PORQUOIS PAS?

The delightful French movie Porquois Pas? ("Why Not?") is now playing in major American cities. It is a serious comedy about a bisexual menage-a-trois, and shouldn't be missed!

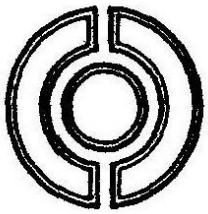
BI-MONTHLY CALENDAR 1979

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 NOTE: RAP GROUP MOVED TO WEDNESDAY (SEE PAGE 9)	7 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RAP (OPEN DROP-IN RAP GROUP)	8	9	10
11	12 BOARD MEETING	13	14	15 GAMES NIGHT! (P. 10)	16	17 POTLUCK (PAGE 10.)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 GAMES NIGHT! (P. 10)	30	

DECEMBER

						1
2	3	4	5	6 GAMES NIGHT! (P. 10)	7 HAIRCUTTING PARTY (P. 7) ARTS & CRAFTS (P. 10)	8 INTIMACY WORKSHP (P. 9)
9 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT (P. 10)	10 BOARD MEETING	11	12	13 GAMES NIGHT (P. 10)	14	15 XMAS-HANNUKAH BLAST! (P. 10)
16 NEWSLETTER PASTEUP (P. 10)	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY (P. 10) 31	25	26	27	28	29



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